

I have been fortunate to work with MIKE on many different topics affecting our communities locally and abroad.

Together we formed the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, a forum to promote the domestic interests of the Greek-American and Hellenic communities, and we have tackled issues of importance to the Hellenic community such as the just reunification of Cyprus and the appropriate name for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

I am proud to call MIKE my friend, and I look forward to our continued friendship for many years to come.

I also look forward to working with his son Gus in continuing all the good work MIKE has done for Florida.

I would also like to recognize the Representative from Tampa, Florida, JIM DAVIS.

Upon arriving to Congress in 1996, JIM was elected as President of the incoming freshman class by his Democrat colleagues, an early indication of his keen leadership abilities.

While we have differed on issues, we have been able to come together and work for the good of Florida and our constituents.

JIM has served this body for over a decade, and his colleagues from both sides of the aisle will miss him.

Lastly, KATHERINE HARRIS has been integral part of the Florida delegation and her presence will be sorely missed.

In her time here, KATHERINE has made a tremendous impression on all those she came in contact with.

Not only will her constituents miss KATHERINE, but she will be missed by her colleagues for the central role she had on all her committees, especially the International Relations Committee, where I was fortunate to have her as an ally on Middle East issues.

I also had the opportunity to travel to Iraq with KATHERINE, and meet with Iraqi officials, women Iraqi leaders, and our brave troops.

Her incredible optimism and keen understanding will be deeply missed by our close-knit Florida family.

In closing, I would like to offer my warmest wishes to CLAY, MIKE, JIM, and KATHERINE for their dedicated service to our country.

Whatever your next vocation may be, I am certain that you will all continue to serve the citizens of Florida and our great Nation with dignity and I look forward to working with you all again.

#### TRIBUTE TO VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a number of New Yorkers who have served so well in this Congress, some of whom are retiring, some of whom were defeated in the last election, all of whom have served our State ably. I regret, unfortunately, that some members of our very own delegation worked for the defeat of some of these, and unfortunately that does affect the comity and collegiality of our delegation, but we have to resolve that in the coming days.

But I would like to talk about my travel partner, SHERRY BOEHLERT, a man whom I have had the pleasure of getting to know over the last 18 years in my service here. He is a great guy. He is loved in his home. He is loved in Washington by all, as you have heard tonight, people on both sides of the aisle. He is a great baseball fan, a Yankee fan. People love the Yankees because they are the Yankees. They are New York. They are our brand name.

He has served as a congressional staffer for 20 years. He served for former Congressman Alexander Pirnie. So he started at the bottom and worked his way to the very top.

He is possibly the biggest baseball fan in the Congress. He is known as a centrist, a moderate.

He served on the Science Committee since 1983 and became its chairman in 2001. In that capacity, he has been the leading Republican environmentalist in the House, a remarkable title and one that certainly is fitting.

He is recognized as a champion of Federal investment in science and technology. He authored amendments to the Clean Air Act that have changed the way we breathe in this country. He authored the conservation title in 1996 on the farm bill, which changes the way we drink our water. So many things, so many contributions to our community.

Perhaps the greatest contribution that someone in the Boehlert family made was his wife, Marianne, for the time that she spent away from him while he did his job here. We are deeply grateful to Marianne for that. I know SHERRY looks forward to his move to MIKE CASTLE's district and working in the Woodrow Wilson International Center, and he will serve us well there and his country.

I would also like to pay tribute to my colleague and friend, SUE KELLY. SUE was elected in 1994 and is finishing her sixth term in the Congress. She represents the West Point District of New York. Prior to coming to Congress, she had a professional career that ranged from teacher, to small business owner, patient advocate, rape counselor, PTA president and biomedical researcher. What a resume.

She was appointed chairman of the House Financial Services Oversight Investigations Subcommittee, was a co-author of Sarbanes-Oxley, and made her subcommittee a leading force in Congress to improve the Federal Government's ability to track and disrupt terrorist financing. She also served on the bipartisan Congressional Anti-Terrorist Financing Task Force.

SUE has also been a great advocate for the Hudson River and worked hard to enact the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Act. She is also a chief sponsor of the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act, enacted in 1998.

She is a good friend, we will miss her, but I know she will continue to serve her country and her community.

My good friend and colleague, JOHN SWEENEY, also a member of the Appropriations Committee, represents New York's 20th Congressional District in Clifton Park, New York. JOHN served as executive director and chief counsel for the New York State Republican Party. JOHN served 2 more years as the New York State commissioner of labor under Governor Pataki.

He is a fellow appropriator and serves as vice chairman of the Transportation-Treasury Subcommittee and HUD Appropriations Subcommittee for Homeland Security and Foreign Operations. He is a dedicated, hardworking public official. His dedication to New York is unchallenged.

He worked very hard to restore the Albany International Airport and the Capital Region, which is a booming airport today. He helped ensure that I-87 was designated a high-priority corridor to receive Federal highway resources, and he led the charge to ban dangerous steroid drugs in professional sports and throughout our society.

Significantly, JOHN played an important role in the \$21 billion appropriation for New York City after September 11.

Lastly, my colleague and longest serving Member to retire is MAJOR OWENS. MAJOR OWENS has served New York in so many ways, representing New York's 11th District in Brooklyn. Before coming here, he served as public library community coordinator, community action executive, New York city commissioner, Columbia University professor, and New York State senator.

What a remarkable public servant he has been. During his tenure in Congress, Congressman OWENS gained notoriety for his role as chairman of the Subcommittee on Select Education and Civil Rights in the 1980s, for his role in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a strong supporter for the minimum wage, strong support of Davis-Bacon legislation and a strong supporter of workers rights to organize into labor unions.

All of these men and women have given their all for the State of New York. We owe them much. They have asked little other than to serve. They have been given that award by the people of New York. Now they are going on to something else. We wish them all the best, Godspeed, and thank you deeply from the bottom of our hearts.

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#### REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE TRIBUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, before he leaves the floor I would echo the sentiment of my gratitude for the friendship, the public service and the example of integrity of the gentleman from